

are determined on should be executed under proper professional superintendence. I make this remark without fear of having my motive misinterpreted, and am, &c.,

GEORGE GODWIN, Architect."

It is much to be regretted that no steps have yet been taken effectually to remedy the evil. The whole county is interested in the preservation of such a structure as Writton Church. Yattoo Church, it may be added, has several points of great interest. In style it is chiefly Perpendicular,—the chancel is perhaps earlier. The south porch is very elegant. The spire is truncated, like that of St. Mary Redcliffe,—very much in the same proportion indeed, and the "cock" at both churches would seem to have proceeded from the same maker. Much of the stone work is in a bad state. The ceiling inside, with white ornaments, is abominably ugly.

INCINERATION OF THE DEAD.

AN objection has been started by a correspondent, "E. E.," to which we should have ourselves alluded had we viewed the matter exclusively in the strong light in which "E. E." has placed it, but although quite cognizant of the possible objection, we were equally impressed with the force of counteractive benefits which seemed to us more or less to neutralize or nullify the force of that objection itself. Under present circumstances, urges our correspondent, "a body may be exhumed, though months may have elapsed, and chemical analysis or surgical examination will detect the presence of poison, or trace the effect of violence, and perhaps supply the last and most essential link in a long chain of evidence, ending in the discovery and conviction of the authors of a foul crime. But if the bodies of our dead are subjected to the action of fire, such evidence would, of course, become impracticable, for the flame which destroys the mortal frame, will, at the same time, consume every record of the causes of its dissolution." Now, while we must not pretend to close our eyes to the fact that there is, on the one hand, great force in such an objection, we must, on the other, do all justice, even as a mere speculation, to the merits of the idea objected to. In the national re-adoption of the ancient practice of incinerating the bodies of the dead, the process would, or ought to be, itself a national one,—that is, in each and every case be effected by a proper functionary, whose first care would be to satisfy himself that the death did not occur from violence, and we think that thus far, at least, the consciousness that there would be no such chance as at present exist of budding up the victim of private violence into a box and burying him out of sight, would of itself go far to prevent such a crime as that to which our present practice itself certainly affords not only private protection but positive temptation. As to death by poison, our correspondent is mistaken in supposing that the burning, or incineration, or carbonization of the dead must needs "consume" all record or evidence of the cause of death. On the contrary, every particle of such poisons as are capable of present of affording evidence under chemical test in such cases of exhumation as those instanced, namely, mineral poisons, would be preserved along with the remains of the dead, which do not necessarily require to be the product of an open flame, produced by foreign elements, and dispersing along with those the substance of the body. In the funeral urn which holds these sacred remains of humanity, therefore, would be preserved, even for ages, every evidence at present available only for months, or, at furthest, till mixed and scattered with the soil by the indiscriminate diggers of graves. The evidence of the urn itself would thus be a surer preservative even to the crime of the poisoner than his present chance of detection, after once managing to hide his victim under the cements of the bier and the soil of the grave. And, moreover, the incineration system, which even now protects our lives to some extent against sudden extinction by criminal means, could easily be made more stringent and comprehensive, were there felt to be any necessity for it in the attainment of so great a good to the living as the saving of their lives, by thousands, from the poison of putrifying

humanity,—a deadly poison, now, itself, really criminally administered by wholesale within the precincts of every city and town.

THE BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT BALL.

THE second anniversary ball in aid of the funds of the Builders' Benevolent Institution took place on the 21st ult., and passed off triumphantly. It was admirably well managed, most respectably and numerously attended, and will, doubtless, be as productive to the resources of the charity, as its warmest friends anticipated. "You really must say something more about our ball than that it took place," writes an active member of the Institution. Well, but our readers do not expect to find lists of quadrilles and polkas, praises of Adams's band, and commendation of pretty women in *THE BUILDER*. "Nay, but this was a builders' ball, and as such, we may surely have a few lines." We willingly yield. Notwithstanding the cross reply of one or two architects to the committee's request that they would act as stewards, the committee have our hearty concurrence in the step, ay, in all their steps of that evening, whether in the committee-room, or in the *schottische*. We plead guilty of salutory predilections, and see nothing derogatory in the indulgence, or in taking advantage of the universal love to benefit an important charity. Those who would be always wise are very foolish. As Shakespeare says,—

"Why should a man whose blood is warm within,
Sit like his grandsire cut in alabaster?
Sleep when he wakes? and creep into the jaundice
By being foolish?"

The ball was held at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, where every corner

"Blazed with lights, and bray'd with minstrelsy," and there could not have been many less than 700 persons present, who all seemed to enjoy themselves intensely, and were in no hurry to leave. But as the grand post we have already quoted says,—

"These violent delights have violent ends,
And in their triumph die:—"

the morning came, the lights went out, and the guests went home; and they took with them the pleasant reflection, that while they had spent a pleasant evening themselves, they had been providing means for the relief of the unfortunate and distressed.

The success was greatly contributed to by the excellent president of the Institution, Mr. William Cubitt, M.P., and by Mr. Joseph Bird, the hon. secretary, and Mr. George Bird, the treasurer,—birds of one feather, though not of one nest.

A HINT TO LITHOGRAPHERS. MACLURE'S ILLUSTRATED ALMANAC.

THIS is a specimen of printing in colours from stone, by the house of MacLure, Macdonald, and Co. It represents a Gothic interior, with knights in steel, lady in robes, curtains, books, and arms, and an enormous "poster" against the wall, on which appears the calendar. Two monthly discriminating contemporaries, whose good opinion is worth something, have given unqualified praise to this production, which is, in truth, quite creditable to the respectable house from whom it emanates. Over a circular-headed doorway, in the side, is a rose window so close down upon it that there is no room for the arch: the rose window itself, more like a wafer stuck flat upon the wall, and the stonework around it, are so ridiculously out of drawing as to put criticism out of the question. The figures at the head of each month on the calendar are in modern costume, while the living occupants and furniture of the apartment are mediæval. Modern men and women may walk about before mediæval pictures, but the reverse is of course impossible. We should have passed the matter by but for the consideration that Messrs. MacLure might be led by the praise in question to think their production all right, and issue a similar atrocity next year. Let them obtain a proper design when they next wish to show the public what they can do, and then their own particular art will have fair play, and gain the applause it deserves.

THE DRAINAGE OF LONDON. METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A GENERAL court was held on Friday in last week, Lord Ebrington in the chair, and present Sir H. de la Beche, Captains Vetch and Dawson, and Messrs. Peto, Hardwick, Hawes, and Lawes, when the principal business done consisted in the passing of a resolution, unanimously agreed to, "that Mr. Forster do consider and report on the best arrangements for obtaining a reduced plan of the metropolitan districts;" this resolution, if we rightly understood the mover, Captain Dawson, being preliminary to one which he should move, to the effect, "That Mr. Forster do consider and report on the best arrangements for the drainage of the metropolis."

The outcry out of doors relative to the consideration of Captain Vetch's plan is loud. The following is one of many letters to us on the subject:—

Sir: Will you permit me to direct attention to the apparent jobbery which is prevailing amongst the Commissioners of Sewers? They advertise for plans, to be limited to October, 1849, and receive 160 upon the faith that they are to be adjudicated upon with candour and fairness: Captain Vetch's is not amongst them. The first act they do after imposing an eightpenny-rate is to appoint an engineer, who has sent in no plan, at 1,500*l.* per annum; and the next is to place some quondam suggestions of Captain Vetch foremost upon the list of schemes; the calculations to be made by their new engineers; and, to crown all, Captain Vetch to sit as a commissioner, and give judgment on his own plan in competition with the others! Can any thing equal this? What is to become of the other plans we are left to guess.

JUDEx.

BUILDING OPERATIVES' PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION.

A PUBLIC meeting of foremen and workmen engaged in the various departments of the building trade was held at Exeter Hall, on the 1st, for the purpose of taking into consideration the objects of the proposed Provident and Friendly Society for Building and Engineering Workmen; also for the purpose of electing a committee to co-operate with that already formed.

The meeting was very numerously attended; Mr. Kay in the chair. Resolutions were passed strongly approving of the proposed association; and the following were elected to form a committee:—Mr. Willoughby, foreman of plasterers to Mr. W. Cubitt; Mr. Dixon, general foreman to Mr. Thos. Cubitt; Mr. Bennett, general foreman to Messrs. H. Lee and Son; Mr. Wood, mason to Messrs. Brown and Rushy; Mr. Goulding, engineer and smith to Mr. Thos. Cubitt; Mr. Ward, mason to Mr. Grissell; Mr. Monument, foreman of bricklayers to Messrs. W. Cubitt and Co.; Mr. Thos. Holland, foreman of joiners to Mr. Thos. Cubitt; Mr. Allard, foreman of joiners to Mr. Patrieks; Mr. Clay, foreman of masons to Mr. Baker; Mr. Rhodes, painter to Mr. Thos. Cubitt; Mr. Dubbs, foundryman, &c., to Mr. W. Cubitt; and Mr. Hawking, foreman to Mr. Trego,—which last was afterwards elected secretary, and will gladly receive suggestions.

ARCHITECTS' TROUBLES.—In addition to the list already given, how often is the architect obliged to contend with an absurd restriction of price as compared with the accommodation required. How, then, with so little confidence or liberality, can a perfect and suitable design be accomplished? how can an architect carry out the "economy of room," or "propriety of order," with unjust and inconsistent parsimony, coupled with the preconceived ideas of the employer. A person requiring the erection of any building, should first state the amount he intends expending, and then ask if such and such arrangements could be executed for that sum. Instead of which the architect, unable to persuade his employer of the erroneous ideas that fill his head, or overcome his fancied economy, is obliged to compile a work from the ridiculous notions of his client, with scanty and mean details and a host of improprieties.—F. W. S.